

77-10941

DD/S&T-6114-77

20 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Leslie C. Dirks  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : National Security Affairs Institute  
Strategic Access Seminar

1. At your request I attended the second session of the Strategic Access Seminar being sponsored by the National Security Affairs Institute at the National Defense University. A list of the participants in this 8 December meeting is included as Attachment 1 to this memorandum. In addition to the regular seminar participants, Dr. Richard Garwin and Mr. Daniel DeSimone attended as special technical consultants. Attachment 2 is the background paper entitled Technology and Strategic Access prepared by Jeffery Kemp for discussion at this meeting, and Attachment 3 is the minutes of the first study group meeting dated 18 November. Although you may already have this, I have also included the schedule for the remaining four sessions of the study group as Attachment 4.

2. The discussion during the meeting, both before and after dinner, was wide ranging, articulate, and fascinating. As you are no doubt aware, strategic access is a multi-faceted issue. The specific aspects of this issue to be addressed by the seminar are not yet sharply defined. General Gard in his closing remarks did note that he had intentionally permitted the first two seminar meetings to wander quite broadly, particularly in view of the fact that strategic access as a subject has never before been directly examined at senior levels. He said that beginning with the next session, he would focus the discussion on specific issues and guide the study group to confine their attention to the defined topic for each session.

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3. Earlier in the seminar meeting, Gen. Gard called on me to give the group any views I had on the issue of technology and strategic access. I made a few general remarks and offered the suggestion that in my view the U.S. strategic access problems in the future would depend on Soviet progress or lack thereof in critical technology in economic areas. I noted the two recent CIA reports on the Soviet economic future and the potential future Soviet problems with energy, specifically oil. I suggested that if the Soviets continued to have problems in applying their laboratory technology to broad areas of applications, they may be driven to initiatives and actions which would indicate different specific U.S. reactions. On the other hand, if the Soviets succeeded in solving some of their key industrial and engineering problems, future U.S. strategic access problems and related plans would be affected. Gen. Gard indicated that this in fact was a topic he hoped the seminar would discuss in more depth during the 9 March meeting on Soviet strategic access problems.

4. After the meeting Prof. Michael McGwire asked me for any unclassified information that might be available from CIA to help him prepare the paper supporting the 9 March meeting. I had with me the unclassified versions of the economic forecast paper and the oil paper which I left with him. I also promised him I would endeavor to find any additional material that might be of use to him.

5. Both Gen. Gard and the staff director, Capt. MacIntyre said they were sorry that you personally were unable to attend this meeting and hoped you will be able to make future meetings. Gen. Gard asked me to pass along his regards.



Leslie C. Dirks

Attachments:

1. List of Participants
2. Background Paper
3. Minutes of 18 Nov. Meeting
4. Seminar Schedule

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